



## NORTH AMERICA

Copyright © 2009 National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

education

- It is bordered to the north by the Arctic Ocean, to the east by the Atlantic Ocean, to the west and south by the Pacific Ocean, and to the southeast by South America and the Caribbean Sea.
- North America is the third largest continent by area, following Asia and Africa, and the fourth by population after Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- From south to north, it extends from 7°N to 85°N latitude and east to west from 20°W to 179° W.
- In other words, its northern boundary is only about 500 kilometers away from the North Pole and its western boundary only 10 kilometers away from the International Date Line.
- There are five time zones in North America.
- The Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic Circle passes through the continent



- North America is the third largest continent. It was discovered by Columbus in 1492 AD. Therefore, it is called as 'The Continent of New World'. It is named after Amerigo Vespucci.
- The terminology of the Americas is complex, but "Anglo-America" can describe Canada and the U.S., while "Latin America" comprises Mexico and the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, as well as the entire continent of South America.



- This huge landmass includes three large countries – Canada, the United States of America and Mexico, seven small states of Central America, and the islands of the West Indies.
- There are several groups of Islands in the southern part of the continent, known as 'Western Island groups' or 'West Indies'.



- It is separated from Asia by the Bering Strait.
- The 49° N latitude forms the boundary between the two big countries- USA and Canada.
- It is connected with South America through the Isthmus of Panama.



- 

# Lakes of North America

- 

- 
- A map of North America highlighting the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes are shown in blue and labeled: Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake, Athabasca, Lake Manitoba, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake St. Clair, Lake Winnipeg, and Lake Nipigon. Surrounding bodies of water include the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, Laptev Sea, Kara Sea, East Siberian Sea, Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. The map also shows the Canadian provinces of Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, as well as the US states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. The word 'enphotopia' is visible in the bottom right corner.

-

- The world famous Niagara Falls is located between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. It is comprises of three waterfalls: the Horseshoe Falls, the American Falls and the Bridal Veil Falls.



## Gulfs of North America

- A gulf is a portion of the ocean that penetrates land which is very large in size, shape, and depth. They are generally larger and more deeply indented than bays and often make excellent harbors.
- Gulf of Mexico
- Gulf of Alaska
- Gulf of California
- Gulf of St. Lawrence



## Drainage Pattern

- Rivers draining into the Gulf of Mexico
- Rivers draining into the Atlantic Ocean
- Arctic Ocean drainage
- Pacific Ocean Drainage





- **The rivers draining into the Gulf of Mexico**
- These are the Mississippi, Missouri and their tributaries drain the whole of the lower Central Lowlands. They start from the Western Cordilleras. The Ohio and Tennessee.

Important Rivers	Information	Source	Outflow
<b>Mississippi-Missouri River</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta – Bird's Foot Delta (New Orleans is located)</li> <li>• St. Louis is located on the confluence of Mississippi and Missouri River.</li> <li>• Major tributaries are the Ohio (eastern) and the Arkansas (western)</li> <li>• One of the world's largest watershed which includes <u>at least 25 states</u>.</li> </ul>	Red Rock of Montana	Gulf of Mexico.
<b>St. Lawrence River</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busiest inland <u>waterway</u> in North Lawrence.</li> <li>• Iroquois dam and locks, and Niagara Falls are located.</li> </ul>	Lake Ontario	Gulf of St. America.
<b>Colorado River</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tributaries : Little Colorado,</li> <li>• Green river and River Gita</li> <li>• Hoover and Boulder Dam are the main dams on Colorado River.</li> <li>• Imperial valley (an area of inland drainage) of the Colorado River is an important region for cotton cultivation</li> </ul>	Grand Country	Gulf of California
<b>Columbia River</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snake River is the main or biggest tributary of Columbia River.</li> <li>• Part of the basin is situated in Washington, Idaho, and Canadian Province of British Columbia.</li> <li>• The longest river of USA which drains into the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• Grand Coulee, <u>Bonneville</u> and Chief Joseph are main dams on Columbia River.</li> </ul>		Pacific Ocean

- **Rivers draining into the Atlantic Ocean:** River St. Lawrence is the large river of this group. In this group the smaller rivers of the Fall Line can also be included.
- **Arctic Ocean drainage:** River Mackenzie which has many shallow lakes on the Canadian Shield. River Nelson flow into the Hudson Bay.
- **Pacific Ocean Drainage:** River Yukon in Alaska, Columbia, Fraser, and Colorado along the west coast. The Colorado River cuts across the Colorado plateau and forms the world's most famous and attractive deep gorges, known as grand canons having nearly one km depth.

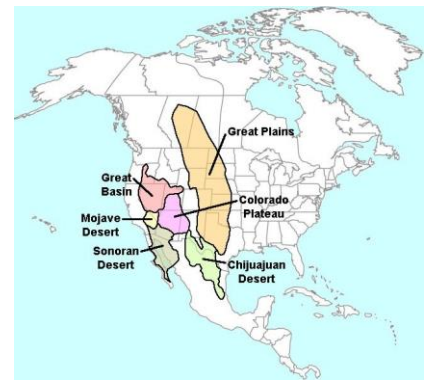
## Mountain Range

- Mt. Mackenzie (6194 m) is the highest peak of North America, situated in Alaska. It is an active volcano.
- Rocky Mountains
- Cascade Range: Mount Whitney (4418 m) is the highest peak of USA.



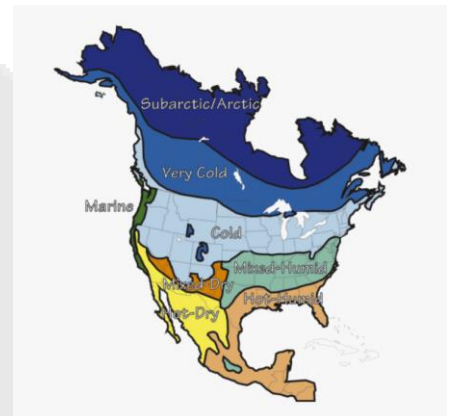
## Desert

- There are four major North American deserts: the Great Basin Desert, Mojave Desert, Sonoran Desert and Chihuahuan Desert. All are located in the southwest of North America and correspond, roughly, with the geological region known as the Basin and Range Province.



## Climate

- It embraces every climatic zone. The lowlands of Central America have a tropical rain forest and savanna whereas the areas of central Greenland have a permanent ice cap. In northern Canada, north Alaska and desert are experiencing subarctic and tundra climates.
- The temperate grassland in North America is called 'prairies'. Maize is called corn here. It is also called 'Corn Belt'.



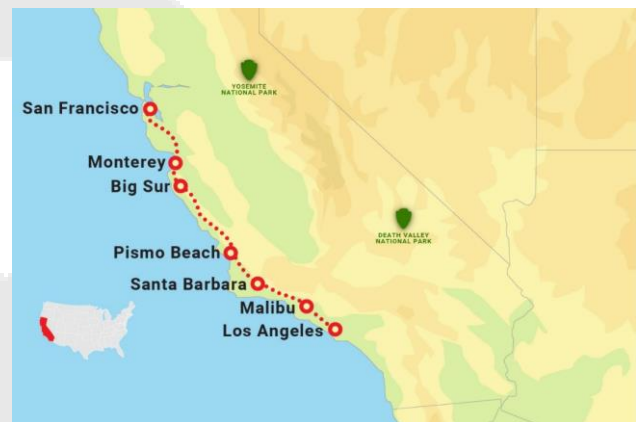
## Mining/Drilling

- North America is a leading producer of coal, used in energy production
  - bauxite used to create aluminum; iron and copper, both used in construction; and nickel, used to create steel, which North American companies export around the world
  - Coal remains a primary industry for the U.S. and is often linked with states near the Appalachians.
  - Coal can be mined underground or in large, open pits. Around 20% of the World's Coal is mined in Pennsylvania, USA.
- 
- The USA is one of the largest producers of copper in the world. It is mined extensively around the great lakes and the Rocky Mountains.
  - Mexico is the world's largest producer of silver. Large deposits of silver are found in the USA and Canada too. It is a byproduct of the Zinc industry as well.
  - Chihuahua is the largest silver mine in the World. It is in Mexico.**
  - The USA is one of the world's largest producer of Uranium and Sulphur.

- Canada produces about 90% of the world's Nickel.
- Canada is also the largest producer of Asbestos, Zinc, and platinum and the second-largest producer of cobalt, Uranium, and radium. **Note that China is also one of the World's largest producer of Asbestos.**
- Large reserves of Petroleum are found in North America in a great arc from Alaska to Texas in the USA.
- **The United States is the top oil-producing country in the world**, with an average of 17.87 million b/d, which accounts for 18% of the world's production.
- Mexico leads other North American countries as one of the top oil exporters in the world, largely because of its reserves in and around the Gulf.

## Important Industrial Centres of North America

- **Seattle** – world's largest aircraft assembly center.
- **San Francisco** – known as 'The City of Golden Gate'. Famous for oil refining and ship building.
- The famous 'Silicon Valley' is in San Francisco which is famous for software and computer industry.
- **Los Angeles** – known for its film industry – Hollywood.



- **Detroit** – greatest automobile region of USA
- **Akron** – world's largest synthetic rubber and tyre making center.
- **Pittsburg** – highest production of Iron and steel
- Cuba is the major producer of Sugarcane and hence called the 'Sugar Bowl of the World'.
- Jamaica is famous for Banana production.
- The largest industrial region of USA is spread over the region from the River Mississippi to the Atlantic Ocean. It is considered as the world's largest industrial region.

## Canada

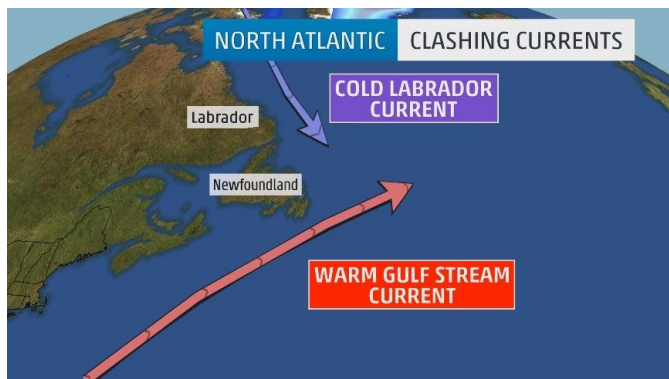
- Canada is the second largest country of the world, after Russia. It extends from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west.
- The Wood Buffalo National Park is world largest national park located in Alberta province of Canada.
- **Hamilton** – located at the head of Lake Ontario. It is known as the Birmingham of Canada. Center for iron and steelworks and engineering.
- **Sudbury** – Located on the shore of Lake Huron. It is one of the most productive mining areas of Canada which yields nickel, Platinum, copper, etc.

- Arvida – Situated on Saguenay River. It has the largest aluminum smelter in the world.
- Sarnia – Located on the shore of Lake Huron. It has the largest oil refinery in the world.
- Ottawa – Paper and pulp and sawmilling

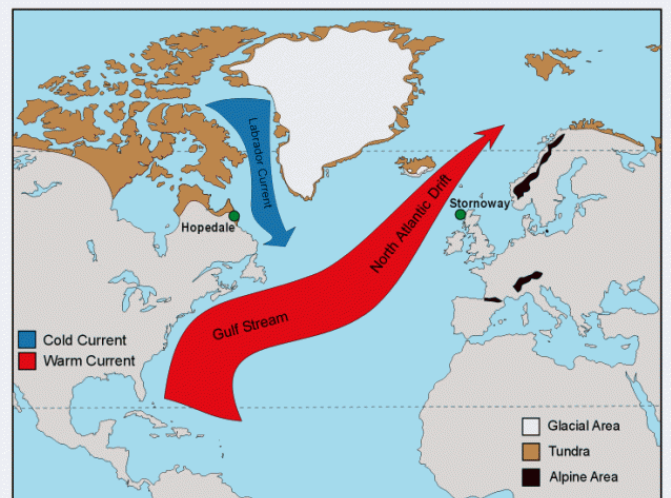
Each Country's Top Export in North America



## Current



Grand Bank near Newfoundland extensive fishing grounds in North America.



- Red Indians, Eskimos and Inuits are the original inhabitants of this continent.

## Ethnic Groups

Other fact:

- Major Food Crops: Wheat and Maize
- Major Cash Crops: Cotton
- The world's smallest owl – the Elf – is found on this continent
- The world's largest economy, the USA, is a part of North America



## Question

**Which of the following strait separate North America from Asia?**

- A. Bering Strait
- B. Cabot Strait
- C. Strait of Canso
- D. Cebu Strait

**Which of the following latitude forms the boundary between the two big countries- USA and Canada?**

- A. 45 Degree North latitude
- B. 46 Degree North latitude
- C. 47 Degree North latitude
- D. 49 Degree North latitude

**Which of the following lakes act as the dividing line between the USA and Canada?**

- A. Athabasca Lake and Reindeer Lake
- B. Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River
- C. Erie Lake and Ontario Lake
- D. Superior Lake and Huron Lake

**Which of the following is highest peak as well as active volcano of North America?**

- A. Mt. Aconcagua
- B. Mt. Etna
- C. Mt. Mackenzie
- D. All of the above

**Who among the following discovered the North America?**

- A. Columbus
- B. Vasco De Gama
- C. Bartolomeo Dias
- D. John Cabot

**Which of the following type of grassland found in the North America?**

- A. Savannas
- B. Prairies
- C. Steppes
- D. Meadows

Question	Answer
1	A
2	D
3	B
4	C
5	A
6	B



Parcham Classes